

years. We have spent many late nights serving on the Rules Committee together.

TONY has been offered the opportunity to represent the United States as a leading advocate to promote global food security and reduce hunger throughout the world. He will serve as the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture based in Rome. His efforts on behalf of the hungry will be greatly missed in the House of Representatives—his work remains a beacon for other members to follow.

Alleviating hunger and improving conditions for the neediest people, both here at home and abroad, has been his personal passion throughout all the years I have worked with him. His new position will enable him to focus on this mission with the full support and authority of the entire United States government.

Representative HALL embodied all the best traditions of this institution. He is known for a commitment to the best interests of his district and the nation as a whole.

With his work and passion he has shown during his years in Congress, he has made this world a better place, and I am very confident he will continue to do so in this new position.

Among his many legislative accomplishments, TONY wrote the bill enacted in 1992 that created the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park. He recently wrote legislation to stop importing "conflict diamonds" that are mined in war-torn Africa and which fund Al-Qaeda's international terrorism, and he also spearheaded international efforts to draw consumers' attention to the importance to this "blood trade."

In his new position, TONY HALL will assist international hunger relief. He will help to draw attention to international food, hunger, and agriculture issues before they reach the crisis stage and to promote innovative hunger-related practices by private groups and governments. This position will give him the opportunity to continue to be a leading advocate for ending hunger and promoting food security around the world.

Best Wishes, TONY. And thank you.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CONGRESSMAN TONY HALL

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2002

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my colleague, and friend, Congressman TONY HALL, as he becomes the United States Ambassador to the United Nations food and agriculture agencies in Rome, Italy.

First elected to the House of Representatives in 1978, TONY has served the good people of Montgomery County, Ohio with distinction and honor. He has been a driving force and advocate for issues like ending world hunger, promoting food security, stopping the importation of "conflict diamonds" in Africa, and an infinite number of legislative accomplishments here in Congress.

He has embraced his role as Congressman in an honorable fashion, and with his experiences as a public servant, I have no doubt that he will step into his new position with the

same grace and fervor that he has demonstrated over the past three decades. Based on his experiences with our own government, there is no better person to lead the fight for human rights.

We will miss his strength and wisdom, but his experiences and passion for the oppressed make him the ideal person to lead the Food and Agriculture arm of the UN. It is hard to see him go, but it would be selfish for us not to let this fine leader use his strengths to help overcome the hunger problems facing our world.

I want to wish TONY all the best as he embarks on this new journey. If his future accomplishments are any reflection of his past contributions, the world will be a better place.

TRIBUTE TO REP. TONY HALL OF OHIO

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2002

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, we come to the House floor today to pay tribute to our colleague from Ohio, the Honorable TONY P. HALL.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, TONY was nominated by President Bush to be the United States ambassador to the United Nations food and agricultural agencies located in Rome, Italy. He is awaiting final Senate confirmation, which could come in a matter of days. Once confirmed, he will resign as the representative of the 3rd District of Ohio and take his post in Rome where he will be able to continue his passionate work as a leading advocate for ending hunger and promoting food security around the world.

TONY will be greatly missed in the House of Representatives, but I know that he is absolutely the right person to serve as the United States representative to the World Food Program, the Food and Agricultural Organization, and International Fund for Agricultural Development, all agencies of the United Nations which assist international hunger-relief efforts.

This is a bittersweet time for me. I have had the privilege and honor to call TONY HALL my colleague for two decades, but more importantly, I have come to call TONY HALL my best friend in Congress. Many people don't understand how a Democrat from Ohio and a Republican from Virginia, who more often than not are on the opposite sides of votes in the House, can share a friendship.

But it's been easy to be TONY's friend because he is one of the most decent, sincere, loving, dedicated people that I know. He finds his strength through his deeply held faith in God. I have come to know him well through our weekly Bible study together, where we have shared personal moments about our families, our lives, our work in Congress. We've had weighty and serious discussions, we've laughed together and we've shared tears.

As a public servant, TONY embodies Christ's teachings in Matthew 25: "For I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink . . . inasmuch as you did it to the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me." His life's work is consumed with spiritual purpose.

TONY HALL's name is synonymous with the cause of alleviating hunger both domestically and worldwide. He believes that food is the most basic of human needs, the most basic of human rights, and he has passionately worked to convince others that the cause of hunger, which often gets lost in the legislative shuffle and pushed aside by more visible issues, deserves a prominent share of attention and resources to assist people who are the most at risk and too often the least defended.

But TONY hasn't limited his humanitarian work to hunger issues. He is a tireless advocate for the cause of human rights around the world and most recently has focused his attention on the illicit diamond trade in Sierra Leone. He convinced me to travel with him to Sierra Leone in late 1990 to see how the machete-wielding rebels there have intimidated men, women and children by hacking off arms, legs, and ears. He has led the effort in bringing to the attention of Congress the conflict diamond trade and authoring legislation to certify that the diamonds Americans buy are not tainted with the blood of the people of Sierra Leone and other African nations.

We also traveled together in January to Afghanistan with Congressman JOE PITTS as the first congressional delegation to that country since the war on terrorism. We visited hospitals, an orphanage, schools, and refugee camps. We met with U.S. diplomats and soldiers; with local leaders and officials with direct responsibility for humanitarian problems and refugees; with representatives of United Nations and private relief organizations; and in Pakistan with refugees and members of religious minority groups.

TONY is never deterred in his effort to help make a positive difference in the lives of suffering people. He has traveled to wherever the need arises and met with whomever he can to effect change, taking risks few would take, with his own comfort and safety never entering his mind.

I believe TONY's life destiny is to be a servant, though in his college days, if he'd had a little larger frame, he may have had a career in football. An Ohio native, in 1964 he received his A.B. degree from Denison University in Granville, Ohio, and while at Denison, he was a Little All-American tailback and was named the Ohio Conference's Most Valuable Player in 1963.

But his inner voice and his servant's heart directed him to what would become a career of service. During 1966 and 1967, he taught English in Thailand as a Peace Corps volunteer. He returned to Dayton to work as a realtor and small businessman for several years, but before long, he was elected to the Ohio House of Representatives where he served from 1969 to 1972, and then to the Ohio Senate, serving from 1973 to 1978. On November 7, 1978, TONY was elected to the House of Representatives from the 3rd District of Ohio and has served with distinction since.

TONY HALL's worldwide hunger relief quest began in earnest in 1984 when he first visited Ethiopia during that nation's Great Famine. What he saw then, especially the faces of emaciated children, was indelibly etched in his mind, forever transforming him and instilling a passion that drives him in his quest to help feed the starving people of the world.

In 1993 this House, in what has been described in Politics in America as "a wave of frugality," abolished the Select Committee on